GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:63
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015
Green Highways Policy
Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash;Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently launched the Green Highways (Plantation and Maintenance) Policy, 2015, if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated and targets fixed for implementing the policy;

(b) whether the Government has acquired land for the highways and has set up monitoring/executing agencies for the purpose, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any mechanism has been instituted for accountability under the policy including undertaking punitive measures against the planting agencies for not maintaining the green belt, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 63 ANSWERED ON 03.12.2015 ASKED BY SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA AND SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI REGARDING GREEN HIGHWAY POLICY

(a) The Government has recently launched the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy, 2015 to develop eco-friendly National Highways with the participation of community, farmers, NGOs, private sector, government agencies and the Forest Department with the following objectives:
1) To evolve a policy frame work for plantation along National Highways;
2) To reduce the impacts of air pollution and dust as trees and shrubs are known to be natural sink for air pollutants;
3) To provide much needed shade on glaring hot roads during summer;
4) To reduce the impact of ever increasing noise pollution caused due to increase in number of vehicles;
5) To arrest soil erosion at the embankment slopes;
6) To Prevent glare from the headlight of incoming vehicles;
7) To Moderate the effect of wind and incoming radiation;
8) To create Employment opportunities for local people;

The Ministry, vide circular No. RW/NH-33044/49/2015/S&R(R), dated 28th August 2015 has communicated that henceforth, for the work related to greening of highways, 1% of civil work costs should be added separately while arriving at the Total Project Cost (TPC) of National Highways being developed on EPC/BOT mode. This "Green Highways Fund" will be set apart for Highway Plantation and its Maintenance.
Plantations are an integral part of highway development. Hence, no separate targets are fixed for plantations along highways.

(b) Land for plantations along highways has not been acquired separately. Plantations are raised on the available land within the Right of Way.
The Indian Highways Management Company, Ltd has been assigned the job of empanelment of planting agencies, and monitoring of plantations. NHAI will act as Fund Manager for the Green Highways fund.

(c) In case of default on the part of the Contractor/Concessionaire with respect to plantation or maintenance of plantations, action will be taken as per the conditions of the Concession Agreement/Contract Agreement or MOU with the concerned agency.
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